

DIVERGENT.

Some Reports Insist That Mafeking Has Been Relieved and Others Say It Has Fallen.

ENGLAND IS EXCITED.

Statement That Mafeking is No Longer Besieged Causes Rejoicing.

A COMMANDANT CAPTURED.

Boers Attempt to Take the Town and Are Surrounded by British.

A SERIOUS BOER REVERSE

Reported From British Sources, But a Pretoria Dispatch Gives It Some Further Color—Boers Stormed the Forts About the Place During the Day.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] London, May 17.—Reports as to the announced relief of Mafeking are contradictory. Late Pretoria reports are to the effect that the relief column has been repulsed.

London, May 17.—Sir Joseph Kitson, M. P., announced in one of the lobbies of the house of commons, this noon, that Mafeking had been relieved. The statement occasioned tremendous excitement. As yet, however, the war office has not confirmed the report.

BOER COMMANDER.

Said to Have Been Captured With a Large Number of His Force.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] Lorenzo Marquez, May 17.—It is reported that Commandant Eloff and a Boer patrol attempted to enter Mafeking, but the garrison surrounded them killing seventeen and taking Eloff and ninety Boer prisoners. The capture of Commandant Eloff was made by Col. Baden-Powell in person.

PRETORIA REPORTS.

That the Federals Won Some Forts But Lost During the Night.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] Pretoria, May 15.—(Delayed.)—An official bulletin says that the federals stormed and occupied Mafeking forts Saturday last, and in the same night the federal guard surrendered, losing seven killed, seventeen wounded and several taken prisoners. British casualties were fifty.

BRITISH FLAG

Raised in Transvaal Territory For the First Time Since the War.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] London, May 17.—Lord Roberts reports from Kroonstadt under date of May 16, that General Rundle, on Tuesday, occupied McQuattings Nek and Modder Poort, north of Ladybrand. He was unopposed. General Hunter has entered the Transvaal and advanced to within ten miles of Christiansburg on the north bank of the Vaal. Methuen advanced twelve miles along the Hoopstad road without seeing any of the enemy. The dispatch concludes: "Reports confirm the disorganization of the Free Staters. The situation here is unchanged."

Reports from correspondents with General Hunter describe him as having occupied Christiansburg and hoisting the British flag for the first time on Transvaal territory. The announcement that Methuen is moving toward Hoopstad, which is just south of the Vaal, strengthens the theory that Hunter and Methuen will co-operate in an advance

eastward along the Vaal and assist Gen. Roberts in a flanking movement on the Boers' position along the river.

BULLER REPORTS.

He Says a Large Force of Boers Were Seen Trekking To The North.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] London, May 17.—General Buller, is continuing his advance northward in Natal and has reached Danhauser, about 12 miles north of Glencoe. His advance was made without opposition. Following is his last report, received through Lord Roberts: "Danhauser, May 17.—The second division has reached Danhauser. I hope my advance patrols are at Newcastle. The fifth division is engaged from Elandsigat to Glencoe repairing the railroad. The fourth division is at Sunday's Drift. Reports agree that 7,000 of the enemy passed northward hurriedly on the 14th."

Newcastle, which Buller hopes has been reached by his advance, is twenty miles north of Danhauser.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

That Is What the British Public Would Like to Know Today.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] London, May 17.—"What has happened at Mafeking?" is the question that is agitating the British public today. Sir Joseph Kitson, a member of the house of commons, caused a sensation today by his announcement in the lobby of the house of commons that Mafeking had been relieved. Throngs of people visited the war office but the officials had no confirmation of the report. They only express the hope that it is true. Pretoria and Lorenzo Marquez dispatches reporting alternately the capture of the garrison and its relief continue to arrive.

The last dispatch from Lorenzo Marquez says that Commandant Eloff and ninety Boers have been captured by Baden-Powell's troops. The war office does not conceal its anxiety for Mafeking, as it is evident the Boers are making desperate efforts to capture the place before the arrival of the relief force.

Reports from Boer sources to the effect that the relief column has been repulsed at Krani Pan, forty miles south of Mafeking, can not be confirmed. Despite the uncertainty the public continues to buy fire works with which to celebrate the relief of Mafeking and the hope is strong that before tomorrow night the joyful news will be received.

The advance of Roberts' left wing has been resumed. For the first time since the war began British troops are in the Transvaal. General Hunter, leading Roberts' advance on the left, is the officer who has been lucky enough to lead his men into the Boer republic. It is expected that from now on Roberts' advance will be desperately opposed. Pretoria dispatches report feverish activity there. Every available man is being pressed into service and the women are said to be volunteering for positions usually held by the men so that the latter may join the commandoes at the front.

LATEST FROM ROBERTS.

He Sends a Report as to His Operations This Afternoon.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] London, May 17.—The second report from Roberts, dated Kroonstadt, today, (Thursday) is as follows: "Hunter occupied Christiansburg unopposed. The enemy has retired to Klerks-

dorp under the impression that that place is threatened.

"Many Ficksburg and Bethlehem Boers are applying to the Basutoland commissioners for conditions of surrender."

Klerksdorp, to which the Boers retired from in front of Hunter, is slightly northwest of Kroonstadt and probably marks the western end of the Boers' defenses on the Vaal.

BALLOTING FOR THE BISHOPS.

Attempt to Secure an Election Resumed Today.

THE THIRD BALLOT TAKEN

Did Not Show a Material Change and No Candidate Was Within One Hundred of Having Enough to Win.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] Chicago, May 17.—The third ballot at the Methodist conference for bishops was announced this morning as follows: J. F. Berry 340; J. W. Hamilton 236; J. W. E. Bowen 123; D. H. Moore 190; W. V. Kelley 135; Henry Spellmeyer 103. No other candidate received more than 25 votes. The total vote 668. Necessary to a choice 445.

AFTER NASH.

Mayor Robertson Wanted Him To Speak Here—Bank Incorporated.

Special to News-Democrat. Columbus, O., May 17.—Mayor Robertson was here yesterday and invited Governor Nash to speak at the celebration in Canton July 4th. Nash has engagements elsewhere on that date but he will try to arrange for the Canton meeting.

BANK INCORPORATED.

The Canton State bank incorporated under Free Banking act of 1851. Capital stock \$100,000; divided 2,000 shares of \$50 each. Incorporators Austin C. Brant and others.

GEO. T. BLAKE.

HAS NO NEWS.

Under Secretary Says the Government Is Without Advice.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] London, May 17.—In the house of commons today, Under Secretary of War Wyndham, declared in answer to a question that the government had absolutely no news.

DISCHARGED WORKMAN

Said to Have Started the Fire That Caused Much Damage.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] Paris, May 17.—Investigation of the fire in the Chateau D'Eau in the exposition grounds Tuesday shows that it was started by a discharged workman.

BRACE OF ACCIDENTS.

Little Child Burned and Another Injured at Alliance Today.

Special to News-Democrat. Alliance, May 17.—Willie Higgins, aged 3 years, son of Leslie Higgins, was playing with matches this morning and ignited his clothes. James Miller, a neighbor, smothered the flames but not before the boy was badly burned. It is thought he will recover.

William Yockum was riding a pony to Higgins residence with some medicine and was hurt by the pony stumbling and throwing him. His head was badly cut.

AGREEABLY SURPRISED.

Captain and Mrs. Gyger Called Upon by a Number of Their Friends.

Special to News-Democrat. Alliance, May 17.—On Tuesday night Captain and Mrs. Elliot L. Gyger were agreeably surprised by the Daughters of Veterans calling at their home, just to remind them of their recent marriage. It being thought they might have forgotten it. The evening was very pleasantly spent and there was fun enough to go round and plenty to spare. A number of patriotic songs helped to contribute to the amusement of the evening.

Takes the burn out; heals the wound; cures the pain. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, the household remedy. When doctors fail try Burdock Blood Bitters. Cures dyspepsia, constipation; invigorates the whole system.

HAY TURNS TO BOERS.

Said That He Has Decided That They Are Entirely In The Right.

SUCCESSOR OF MACRUM

Declared to Have Ardent Sympathies For the Struggling Burghers.

THE SON OF SECRETARY HAY

Could Not Stand the Situation When He Got There and Would Like to Get Rid of His Job, as Macrum Did, and Tell the Truth About the War.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] Baltimore, May 17.—It is rumored that Consul Adelbert S. Hay, son of the secretary of state, who is stationed at Pretoria, has completely changed his opinion as to who is right and who is wrong in the Boer British war. As is generally understood Hay left the United States with decidedly pro-British views. A Baltimore society man stated yesterday that he saw a letter which Consul Hay had recently written to a relative in Washington in which he announced himself as ardently in sympathy with Boers in "their struggle to defend their country," and expressed regret that his official position prevented him from making public his feelings on the war question.

PLAN OF REORGANIZATION

President Blickensderfer of W. & L. E. Announces Details.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] New York, May 17.—President Robert Blickensderfer, of the W. & L. E. railway company, has announced the details of the plan for the acquisition of the C. C. & S., the belt and terminal railroad, of Cleveland, and the Cosh-octon and Southern, including the terminals of these several companies in Cleveland, Zanesville, Canton and Cosh-octon. The combined roads will form a short and direct line between Wheeling and the cities of Cleveland and Toledo and touch other important points such as Canton and Zanesville. With a view of merging all of this property the company has invited all the holders of divisional bonds to exchange their holdings for new bonds and stocks as provided for under the plan just announced. The new mortgage is for \$15,000,000. \$6,000,000 is set aside to retire outstanding issues of the W. & L. E. Co., \$6,000,000 is allowed for the purchase of the C. C. & S. and belt line properties, for the payment and retirement of outstanding car trust obligations. For the purpose of new equipments and the general improvement of the company's property \$2,000,000 will be held in the treasury to be used only for the acquisition of new dock property and further extension.

SWITCH TORN UP.

Turntable Also Destroyed And Wires Interfered With At Dayton.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] Dayton, May 17.—A large force of special policemen was sworn in this morning on account of the street car strike and all were assigned to duty with the regular officers. Many are being placed along the Wayne avenue line. The switch and Fifth and Wayne avenues was spiked during the night. Stones were piled upon the track at that section. The turntable at the north end of the line was up-ended last night and the turn-bell taken up and thrown into the canal. A live wire attached to a cluster of lights at that locality was removed and left hanging down. Later the wire was wrapped around a post. A farmer hitched his horse to the pole and the animal received a severe shock.

SMEARED WITH BLOOD.

Madman Runs Amuck and Kills a Number of the Crew of a Boat.

[News-Democrat Leased Wire Service.] Stockholm, May 17.—The Swedish steamer, Prince Charles, put in here today, bearing indications of an extraordinary tragedy. Blood was smeared and spattered everywhere. Early

last evening an unknown madman armed with a revolver, ran amuck on the steamer and shot dead five passengers almost before they realized his intention. The captain sprang upon the man, but he was too quick for him and killed him with a bullet. The lunatic then reloaded his revolver and going on deck shot and wounded six of the crew. The others of the ship's company were by this time completely cowed, and no further attempt was made to capture the lunatic, who lowered a life boat and escaped.

J. W. PONTIUS IS CONSIDERING

The Matter of Candidacy For Dairy and Food Commissioner

HE MAKES A STATEMENT.

The Proposition Was Unsolicited. He States, and Friends All Over The State Are Waiting For A Reply.

Special to News-Democrat. Cleveland, May 17.—It is reported here that Jackson W. Pontius, of Canton, is to be a candidate before the Democratic state convention for dairy and food commissioner. The opposition to Mr. Blackburn, the Republican candidate, makes it altogether probable that a Democrat can be elected.

"I have under consideration the candidacy for the office of dairy and food commissioner of the state, on the Democratic ticket," said Mr. Pontius on Thursday afternoon to a News-Democrat reporter, "but I have not announced my intentions definitely. The matter has been brought to me altogether unsolicited from friends throughout the state who desire to have me be a candidate. I cannot say now what answer I shall make to them."

SAMUEL G. POSCHUNG

Dies at the Residence of His Daughter Southwest Of Canton.

Samuel G. Poschung died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Samuel Sailer, residing four miles southwest of Canton, on the Richville road, Wednesday afternoon. Poschung was a native of Saanen, Switzerland, where he was a prosperous lumber dealer. He came to Canton about eighteen months ago to visit his children and intended to return to his home during the coming autumn. A few days ago he had a very severe attack of asthmatic trouble, which developed into pneumonia, which terminated his life. He was 62 years of age. Nine children survive him, Robert, formerly connected with Central engine house, now with the W. & L. E. R. R., Mrs. Samuel Sailer, Mrs. Marie Thompson, of York Center, and three sons and three daughters at his home at Saanen. The intelligence of his sudden death will be sad news to his family in the little town situated at the foot of the Alps.

The funeral service will occur Friday at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Sailer, where he died. Rev. F. C. Nau, pastor First Reformed church, will officiate. The interment will take place at Westlawn cemetery.

GOING TO PARIS.

Sixteen Year Old Gorby Fritz Leaves Home and Cannot Be Found Here.

When the members of the Fritz family, residing at 619 East North street, arose Wednesday morning their attention was attracted to some ropes and other stuff hanging out of an upstairs window. They ran outside and tugged at the rope but found it fastened. Further investigation showed that Gorby A. Fritz, their sixteen year old son had left his bed room during the night time and was nowhere to be seen. A number of articles of clothing also were gone. A search was made for the boy but he was not to be found. Wednesday evening a friend to whom young Fritz had confided his plans, called on the family and stated that Gorby had told him that he was going to try and make his way to the Paris exposition. The family are somewhat alarmed lest the boy will get himself into trouble.

AFTER A FRANCHISE

Said That Another Telephone Company is About to Seek Admission.

An Alliance special says that the Columbiana county telephone company is about to ask the city of Alliance for a franchise and is also coming to Canton on a like mission, the object being to reach Massillon and establish an independent system in this section of the state. The special says that the company is operating very successfully in Columbiana county and elsewhere in eastern Ohio.

The third annual Shearer reunion will be held Saturday, the 26th of May, 1900, at the home of J. J. Snyder, one half mile west of Paris, O. The relatives and friends are heartily invited to be present and spend a day of social enjoyment.

SUNDAY EXCURSION

Said to Have Been Abandoned By a Railroad Running Through Canton.

PITTSBURG PEOPLE SAY

That Park Managers Are Having Trouble Getting Rates For Sundays

G. A. BAND ENGAGEMENTS.

May Be Interfered With on That Account, as Park Managers Usually Arranged For Excursions Along the Line to Help Swell the Crows.

The question of Sunday railroad excursions from Canton has from time to time been up for discussion at the meetings of the Canton Ministerial association and it looks now as though one source of offense to the local preachers would stop this season. Last summer a number of big excursions were run from here to Pittsburgh at which time the Grand Army band gave concerts at Calhoun park. Word comes from Pittsburgh that the Pennsylvania railroad has absolutely refused to make any terms for Sunday excursions this year. The Grand Army band had been solicited for engagements at different times for concerts last year but it is probable that unless some arrangements are made for the continuing of the excursions the engagements may fall through.

No one in Canton seems to know what has happened that the railroad seems disinclined to make terms for these excursions.

Rev. H. C. Ferguson, president of the Ministerial association, stated Thursday afternoon that the question had been before the association some time ago and a committee had been appointed to take the matter in charge and see if something could not be done that would head off Sunday excursions this year.

"I do not know that this committee has done anything," said he. "If it has I have not heard of it. Nothing has come before the association, no report, nor do I know of any meetings of the committee having been held. Whatever was to have been done was along the line of a petition to the railroad asking it not to engage in these excursions. Such a petition was presented to the C. & P. road from the people along the line of its track and I believe there were over 10,000 petitioners. The company at first refused to comply with the petition but afterward, I am informed, agreed that it would not run any Sunday excursions this year and would also take off all Sunday trains but one. There has been a good bit of feeling along the line of this road and also in Pittsburgh and the people at last won against the excursions. I do not know what the situation is as to Canton and the road that runs through here but the movement started for the C. & P. may have ramified to the Fort Wayne also, I do not know. Or there may have been something done somewhere else along the line to bring an influence to bear to stop it."

Rev. Charles Church, of Simpson M. E. church, was a member of the committee appointed to look after the matter. He said Thursday that he did not know that anything had been done from Canton on the matter. The committee at least had not held any meetings. In Pittsburgh, however, it is reported that all parks are having difficulty in arranging excursion rates and this fact may interfere, if has not already done so, with the G. A. band engagements at Calhoun park.

BRIDAL PARTY

Comes From Louisville and Enjoys a Day In This Vicinity.

The Yohe seems to be the Mecca for newly-married couples. Why it is so is not known, unless it is the pleasing smile and appearance of Clerk Stieber. Wednesday morning Frederick Kerchener, accompanied by his beautiful and blushing bride, Miss C. C. Saner, and the groomsmen, Mr. L. Rich, and maid of honor, Miss M. Kerchener, entered the lobby and registered. They came from Louisville, O., to enjoy a short honeymoon in this city before leaving for Cleveland and a tour of the lakes. The party visited the principal places of note, took a ride out North Market street to obtain a peep at the president's home, visited Meyer's lake, invested in pop-corn, peanuts and gum, and engaged in other pastimes which newly-married couples enjoy while visiting a great city. The party left over the Valley road last night amid a shower of rice and shies which were hurled at them as the train sped away toward the Forest city.